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From Pirates Off the Coast to Destinations in the Mountains, the Museum of History Honors North Carolina's Past



For images, follow this [Dropbox link](#). Captions and credits are listed after program descriptions.

May 31, 2021 (RALEIGH, N.C.) — As the weather warms and downtown Raleigh welcomes back locals and tourists, the NC Museum of History has something for everyone this early summer. Peruse the latest photography exhibit, experience the sights and sounds of the immersive military exhibit, tune in to our continuing online programs, and don't forget to pick up a gift for Father's Day at the [Museum Shop](#). The museum is open to the public with [special protocols in compliance with Executive Order 215](#). Admission is free!

Top Five Things to Do This Month

- Celebrate the [156th anniversary of Juneteenth](#), the passage of the 13th Amendment, with the museum's Curator of African American History.
- Take a virtual tour of the [historic Blue Ridge Mountain getaway](#), Grove Park Inn, a site that has hosted presidents, writers, and industrialists.
- Stop by the museum in person and explore the exhibits celebrating [music](#), [tourism](#), [women's suffrage](#), [vintage toys](#), and our [veterans](#).
- Pour yourself a glass of your favorite red or white wine and discover the [rich history of Bordeaux](#), dating back to King Henry II.

- For kids, practice your [best pirate impression](#), get ready to [grow your own garden](#), or create a [“whirligig”](#)!

Read on for a current listing of June events, and follow us on social media for updates and additional programming. You can also stay updated on all events and exhibits by accessing the museum website: ncmuseumofhistory.org. Programs are **FREE** unless otherwise noted; advance registration, at ncmuseumofhistory.org/events, is generally required to receive a confirmation email with information about joining online presentations.

Did you miss a previous program? Many of the museum’s programs are being archived to enjoy any time on the museum [YouTube](#) channel.

*Events with asterisks note family and kid-friendly programming.

History at High Noon: Normandy and NC

Wednesday, Jun. 2, noon–1 p.m.

Help us pay tribute to the June 6th anniversary of D-Day with a screening of Smithsonian Channel’s 2018 documentary *The Battle of Normandy: 85 Days in Hell* (not rated; run time: 52 min.). On the morning of June 6, 1944, thousands of ships landed on the French coast of Normandy in an Allied operation of US, British, and Canadian forces destined to liberate the region’s citizens from Nazi control. Hundreds of thousands of lives and 85 days later, the invasion succeeded in freeing northern France and opening the door to German surrender. This film contains parts of more than 100 hours of previously unseen archival footage—identified by Dominique Forget, one of the world’s foremost experts on World War II archives—as well as rare images from private collections, some of them, too, never shared or not seen for decades. Charles R. Knight, Curator of Military History, will introduce the film and highlight some of North Carolina’s connections to the operation.

*Tar Heel Tales: *Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table*

Wednesday, Jun. 2, 1–2 p.m. via Demio

Ages 5 and up; parents are encouraged to participate with their children during the program

Farmer Will could see what others couldn’t see: When he looked at an abandoned city lot, he saw a huge table, big enough to feed the whole world. Listen to this delicious story by Jacqueline Briggs Martin and learn about some community gardens in our state. This true story about the former basketball star is illustrated by Eric-Shabazz Larkin.

*History Corner: Wonderful Whirligigs

Wednesday, Jun. 9, 1–2 p.m. via Demio

Ages 6–9; parents are invited to participate with their children during the program

Spinning, whirling, shining . . . Vollis Simpson's giant whirligigs surely catch the eye! Find out about his amazing creations and their home in downtown Wilson. Then, learn how to make a miniature whirligig of your own. Guest speaker Jeff Bell from the Vollis Simpson Whirligig Park and Museum will join us.

History and Highballs: Bordeaux: A Brief History of the World's Most Famous Wine

Thursday, Jun. 10, 7 p.m. via Zoom

The region surrounding Bordeaux, a city in southwestern France, is the largest fine-wine-producing area in the world. But it hasn't always been that way; nor was the area's destiny guaranteed by geography or geology. Instead, Bordeaux grew to fame when the region was acquired in 1152 by Henry II, king of England, as part of the dowry for his wife, Eleanor of Aquitaine. From that time onward, Bordeaux primarily produced wines for an export market: first for the British Isles, then for much of northern Europe. After a series of tariff increases and wars between England and France led to increased prices for Bordeaux wines, producers found incentive to make a more superior wine that was worth the extra cost. By the 18th century, therefore, Bordeaux had become known in England as a fine wine and, because of its price, a wine for the wealthy. In America, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson were fans of Bordeaux wine, and in the 19th century, wealthy Americans drank the finest Bordeaux—in imitation of European aristocracy. If you want to know why we grow these grapes in the United States, and even right here in North Carolina, look no farther than the history of Bordeaux wine.

Dr. Charles Ludington, Department of History at North Carolina State University, has published essays on the history of wine consumption in Britain from the mid-17th century to the mid-19th century. His first book, *The Politics of Wine in Britain: A New Cultural History* (2013), used wine consumption as a window onto English, Scottish, and British political culture from Cromwell to Queen Victoria. He currently teaches early modern and modern British history, European history, and European intellectual history.

*History Hunters: Blackbeard—A Tale of Two Ships

Wednesday, Jun. 16, 1–2 p.m. via Demio

Ages 10–13

How can one ship be two? Blackbeard's flagship, the *Queen Anne's Revenge*, had a previous life as *La Concorde*, a French slave-trading vessel. Learn some (formerly) hidden history with our guest speaker from the Queen Anne's Revenge Conservation Lab.

Juneteenth: A Story of Freedom

Wednesday, Jun. 16, 7 p.m. via Zoom

Juneteenth (short for "June Nineteenth") marks the day in 1865 (June 19th) when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to take control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people were freed—a full two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed and more than two months after America's Civil War "officially" ended. Juneteenth—a celebration that spread word about passage of the 13th Amendment, which outlawed slavery in the United States—is an important milestone in the fight for equality and provides an opportunity for us all to pause and consider the meaning of freedom and to rededicate ourselves to telling stories that reflect all members of our community.

Please join Earl Ijames, Curator of African American, Agriculture, and Community History, and Chrystal Regan, Education Section Chief, in an insightful conversation to examine the history behind this holiday and reveal why its celebration is more important now than ever. They will also explore North Carolina's special connections to the historic event and share details about Raleigh's inaugural Juneteenth Celebration.

History and Highballs: Grove Park Inn

Thursday, Jun. 24, 7 p.m. via Zoom

Even with 400 men working 10-hour shifts over a six-day workweek to log timber and lug tons of granite boulders, using mules and wagons, construction of the Grove Park Inn fortunately finished by opening day in July 1913. Immediately, newspapers across the United States christened it "the finest resort hotel in the world." Indeed, it drew the rich and famous to Asheville, where they relaxed among panoramic views and took in the healthful, soothing climate of North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains. Among guests have been 10 US presidents; noted industrialists like Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone, Thomas Edison, and John D. Rockefeller Jr.; and personalities including F. Scott Fitzgerald, Will Rogers, David Copperfield, Gene Hackman, Daniel Day-Lewis, Jerry Seinfeld, and Jennifer Lopez. Enjoy a filmed walking tour of this historic Arts and Crafts-based property and a live Q&A session with Bruce E. Johnson, Author and Historian.

IMAGES: [Dropbox link](#), caption and credits

Image – June programs press release logo
Courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History

Image – History at High Noon: Normandy and NC
Courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History

Image – Tar Heel Tales: *Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table*
Courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History, author Jacqueline Briggs Martin, and illustrator Eric-Shabazz Larkin

Image – History Corner: Wonderful Whirligigs
Courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History and Vollis Simpson Whirligig Park and Museum

Image – History and Highballs: Bordeaux
Courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History

Image – Juneteenth: A Story of Freedom
Courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History

Image – History Hunters: Blackbeard
Courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History and Queen Anne’s Revenge Conservation Lab

Image – History and Highballs: Grove Park Inn
Courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History and Grove Park Inn

For information about the NC Museum of History, a Smithsonian Affiliate museum, call 919-814-7000 or access ncmuseumofhistory.org or follow the museum on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), or [YouTube](#).

About the NC Museum of History

The North Carolina Museum of History, a Smithsonian Affiliate, fosters a passion for North Carolina history. This museum collects and preserves artifacts of state history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibits and educational programs. **Admission is free.** Before the COVID public closure, more than 465,000 people visited the museum annually to see some of the 150,000 artifacts in the museum collection. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

About the Smithsonian Affiliations Network

Since 2006, the North Carolina Museum of History has been a Smithsonian Affiliate, part of a select group of museums, cultural, educational, and arts organizations that share Smithsonian resources with the nation. The Smithsonian Affiliations network is a national outreach program that develops long-term collaborative partnerships with museums, educational, and cultural organizations to enrich communities with Smithsonian resources. More information is available at affiliations.si.edu.

About the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

The North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational, and economic future of North Carolina. NCDNCR's mission is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries, and natural assets in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development.

NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums, and Jennette's Pier, as well as 39 state parks and recreation areas, the North Carolina Zoo, the nation's first state-supported symphonic orchestra, the State Library of North Carolina, the State Archives of North Carolina, the North Carolina Arts Council, the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, and the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology, along with the state Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, call 919-814-6800 or visit DNCR.nc.gov.

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